

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD SUMMARY

Thursday, September 20, 2001

SENATE

Message From the President:

Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting the President's address concerning the terrorist attack on New York's World Trade Center, delivered to a Joint Session of Congress on September 20, 2001; which was ordered to lie on the table. (PM-43)

Pages S 9553-5, D 911

Executive Communication:

EC-3974. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, *transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Activities and Operations of the Public Integrity Section for 2000*; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Page S 9556

Committee Meetings:

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee held hearings to examine federal aviation security standards, focusing on aviation related computer systems, airport access controls, and passenger and carry-on baggage screening, including how the United States and selected other countries differ in their screening practices.

Page D 911

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded hearings on the nominations of *Benigno G. Reyna*, of Texas, to be *Director of the United States Marshals Service*, and *Jay B. Stephens*, of Virginia, to be *Associate Attorney General*, both of the Department of Justice, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

Page D 912

Committee Meeting For Friday, September 21, 2001:

Committee on Governmental Affairs: @ 9:30 a.m. To hold hearings to examine the U.S. response to homeland attacks. SD-106.

Page D 915

Remark:

Survivor Benefit Plan Amendment To The National Defense Authorization Bill For Fiscal Year 2002.

"...The proposed legislation, which reflects the language of S. 145 which I introduced on January 23, 2001, would immediately increase for surviving spouses over the age 62 the minimum survivor Benefit Plan, SBP, annuity from 35 percent to 40 percent of the SBP covered retired pay. The bill would provide a further increase to 45 percent of covered retired pay as of October 1, 2004, and to 55 percent as of September 2011..."

Thurmond

Pages S 9551-2

HOUSE

Suspensions:

The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

District of Columbia Family Court Act: H.R. 2657, to amend title 11, District of Columbia Code, to redesignate the Family Division of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia as the Family Court of the Superior Court, to recruit and retain trained and experienced judges to serve in the Family Court, to promote consistency and efficiency in the assignment of judges to the Family Court and in the consideration of actions and proceedings in the Family Court (agreed to by a yeas-and-nays vote of 408 yeas with none voting “nay,” Roll No. 343); and

Pages H 5740-50, H 5764, D 912-13

Juvenile Crime Control and Delinquency Prevention Act: H.R. 1900, to amend the *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974* to provide quality prevention programs and accountability programs relating to juvenile delinquency.

Pages H 5750-64, D 913

H.R. 2586. DOD Authorization Bill for FY 2002:

The House completed general debate and began considering amendments to **H.R. 2586**, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for military activities of the Department of Defense and to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2002. Further consideration of the bill will resume at a later date.

Pages H 5765-H 5856, D913

See Page H 5808: SUBTITLE H—MILITARY JUSTICE AND LEGAL MATTERS.

SEC. 571. REQUIREMENT THAT COURTS-MARTIAL CONSIST OF NOT LESS THAN 12 MEMBERS IN CAPITAL CASES.

SEC. 572. RIGHT OF CONVICTED ACCUSED TO REQUEST SENTENCING BY MILITARY JUDGE.

SEC. 573. CODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT FOR REGULATIONS FOR DELIVERY OF MILITARY PERSONNEL TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES WHEN CHARGED WITH CERTAIN OFFENSES.

See Page H 5824: SEC. 1104. RETIREMENT PORTABILITY ELECTIONS FOR CERTAIN

**DEPARTMENT
OF
DEFENSE
AND
COAST
GUARD
EMPLOYEES.**

- (a) Civil Service Retirement System.--Section 8347(q) of title 5, United States Code, is amended--*
(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “has 5 or more years of civilian service creditable under” and inserting “is employed subject to”; and
(2) in paragraph (2)(B)--(A) by striking “vested”; and
(B) by striking “, as the term ‘vested participant’ is defined by such system”.
(b) Federal Employees' Retirement System.--Section 8461(n) of such title is amended--
(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “has 5 or more years of civilian service creditable under” and inserting “is employed subject to”; and
(2) in paragraph (2)(B)--
(A) by striking “vested”; and
(B) by striking “, as the term ‘vested participant’ is defined by such system”.

See Page H 5824. USE OF COMMON OCCUPATIONAL AND HEALTH STANDARDS AS A BASIS FOR DIFFERENTIAL PAYMENTS MADE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS.

H.R. 2647. Legislative Branch Appropriations Conference:

The House disagreed with the Senate amendments to H.R. 2647, making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and agreed to a conference. Appointed as conferees: Chairman Young of Florida and Representatives Taylor of North Carolina, Wamp, Lewis of California, LaHood, Sherwood, Obey, Moran of Virginia, Hoyer, and Kaptur.

Pages H 5857, D 913

H.R. 2620. Veterans Affairs, HUD Appropriations:

The House disagreed with the Senate amendment to H.R. 2620, making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and agreed to a conference. Appointed as conferees: Chairman Young of Florida and Representatives Walsh, DeLay, Hobson, Knollenberg, Frelinghuysen, Northup, Sununu, Goode, Aderholt, Obey, Mollohan, Kaptur, Meek, Price, Cramer, and Fattah.

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H.R. 2500. Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Bill Returned to the Senate:

The House agreed to H. Res. 240, returning to the Senate the bill H.R. 2500, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002.

Pages H 5857-9, D 913

Committee Meetings:

Committee on Government Reform: Held a hearing on “*Preparing for the War on Terrorism.*”

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: *Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management approved for full Committee action the following: H.R. 525, amended, Preparedness Against Domestic Terrorism Act of 2001; GSA Fiscal Year 2002 Capital Investment and Leasing Program-Remaining Prospectuses; H.R. 852, to designate the Federal building and United States Courthouse to be constructed at 10 East Commerce Street in Youngstown, Ohio, as the “Nathaniel R. Jones and Frank J. Battisti Federal Building and United States Courthouse.”*

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Committee Meetings For Friday, September 21, 2001:

Committee on Government Reform, @ 10:00 a.m. Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, hearing on “*Mass Transit in the National Capital Region: Meeting Future Capital Needs,*” followed by a markup of the following: **H.R. 2305, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Restructuring Act of 2001;** and the District of Columbia Fiscal Integrity Act of 2001. 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, @ 10:00 a.m. Subcommittee on Aviation, hearing on Aviation Security and the Future of the Aviation Industry. 2167 Rayburn.

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Thursday, September 20, 2001, 1st

Remark:

In Recognition Of Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week: September 17-21, 2001.

"... During my tenure in Congress, I have supported efforts with respect to product liability reform, securities litigation reform, and reform of the Federal Superfund program. More importantly, I sponsored legislation that has helped reduce, in my view, frivolous class action lawsuits brought against mortgage brokers. Legal reform is a very complex issue. The legal system must function to provide justice to every American. This does not mean, however, that the status quo is necessarily perfect. When lawsuits and the courts are used in excess or to the detriment of innocent parties, the system should be reviewed and reformed if possible..."

Ehrlich

Pages E 1678-9

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

H.R. 2888, making emergency supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for additional disaster assistance, for anti-terrorism initiatives, and for assistance in the recovery from the tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001. Signed on September 18, 2001. (Public Law 107-38)

H.R. 2133, to establish a commission for the purpose of encouraging and providing for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education. Signed on September 18, 2001. (Public Law 107-41)

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Next SENATE MEETING: Friday, 9:00 a.m., September 21, 2001.

Next HOUSE MEETING: Friday, 9:00 a.m., September 21, 2001.

OLA: S. Schwarz (Smith), J. Homanich